that all things were the offspring of and motion, — that is, that all things were made and generated *out of* matter ; and that he chargeth Homer with it, in deriving the original of the gods themselves in like manner from the Ocean (or floating matter) in this verse of his,

viratf xal ^

The father of all gods the
Ocean is, Tethys their mother.

Wherefore, these indeed seem to have been the ancientest of all Atheists, who, though they acknowledged certain beings superior to men, which they called by the name of gods, did notwithstanding really deny a God, according to the true notion of him, deriving the original of all things whatsoever in the universe from the ocean, that is, fluid matter, or, which is all one, from night and chaos ; apd supposing all their gods to have been made and generated, and consequently to be mortal and corruptible. Of which Atheistic theology Aristophanes gives us the description in his Aves,* after this manner: " That at first was nothing but Night and Chaos, which layingan egg, from thence was produced Love, that mingling again with Chaos, begot heaven, and earth, and animals, all the gods."

Xaftf *"fa, xaL* y^f , f£if?£$ <r* ftl>uty flfpwrov, *Tn* §*, cuS* etijg, ouJ* owpttvof *|v* Jpijetatffff *$ iv a* TiVm *lepwrienreiv* ijwwi/waov vuf »i /uf *Xavtort* goc *&fo.* *E| oy orsptTiXXo/ix.Iwic fistic *W*.(L0mrw*Egw; t* orofliii^.

Ourtx; ^2 *xji.*

, *xa* 8" oux
nv ytvof oflAvaTW, *Tffiv*

Ver. €94. p. 404. edit. Kusteri.